

29 January 2021



Incident Alert

Incidents against ships in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait

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Incidents against ships in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait

The incidents of armed robbery against ships continued to occur to ships while underway in the Singapore Strait. During 25 – 29 Jan 21, three incidents were reported on board ships while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait. The three incidents occurred in close proximity to each other and in particular, two incidents occurred within an interval of four hours. In all three incidents, the perpetrators were sighted in the engine room. However, nothing was reported stolen and the crew was safe with no confrontation with the perpetrators.

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the Singapore Strait. In 2020, a total of 34 incidents were reported in the Singapore Strait; of which 30 incidents occurred in the eastbound lane, two in the precautionary area, one in the westbound lane and one just outside (south) of the TSS. The ReCAAP ISC had issued five Incident Alerts on the incidents occurred in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait and one Special Report on incidents against ships in the Singapore Strait in 2020. In 2019, a total of 31 incidents were reported in the Singapore Strait.

As the perpetrators of these incidents are not arrested, there is a possibility of further incidents occurred in the Singapore Strait. All ships are advised to exercise enhanced vigilance, adopt extra precautionary measures and report all incidents immediately to the nearest coastal State. Ship master and crew are advised to keep abreast of the latest situation (at www.recaap.org) and tune-in to advisories and navigational broadcasts announced by the littoral States. The ReCAAP ISC urges the littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in their respective waters, strengthen coordination among them and promote information sharing on the latest situation, and the criminal groups involved in order to make arrests of the perpetrators.

Details of Incidents

During 25 - 29 Jan 21, the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) reported to the ReCAAP ISC three incidents that occurred to ships while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait. Refer to the map next page on the location of the incidents. The details of the three incidents are described as follows:

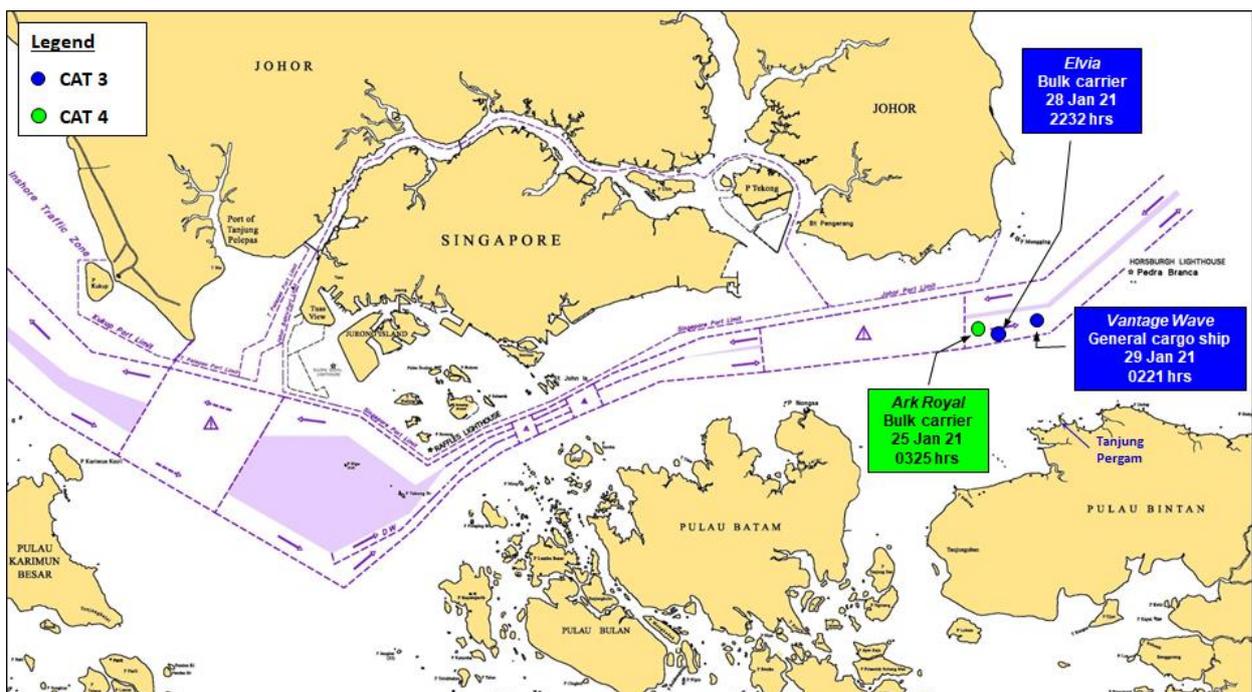
- a. On 25 Jan at about 0325 hrs, bulk carrier, *Ark Royal* was underway at about 7.1 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia when five unauthorised persons were sighted in the engine room. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board the ship was conducted. At 0506 hrs, the master updated Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) that the search on board was completed with no further sighting of the unauthorised persons. The master reported that nothing was stolen, and all crew was safe and accounted for. He added that no assistance was required, and the ship continued its voyage. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's



(RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed, and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified.

b. On 28 Jan at about 2232 hrs, bulk carrier, *Elvia* was underway at about 6 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia when 10 unauthorised persons armed with knives were sighted in the engine room. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board the ship was conducted. At 2338 hrs, the master updated VTIS East that the search on board was completed with no further sighting of the unauthorised persons. Nothing was stolen and the crew was safe. No assistance was required and the ship continued on her voyage to China. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed, and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified.

c. On 29 Jan at about 0221 hrs, general cargo ship, *Vantage Wave* was underway at about 5.8 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia when three unauthorised persons armed with knives were sighted in the engine room. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board the ship was conducted. At 0322 hrs, the master updated VTIS East that the search on board was completed with no further sighting of the unauthorised persons. Nothing was stolen and the crew was safe. No assistance was required and the ship continued on her voyage to Caofeidian, China. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed, and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified.



Approximate location of the three incidents (25-29 January 2021)

